

The Baptist Record.

"THY KINGDOM COME"

OLD SERIES, VOL. XXXVI

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, DEC. 4, 1913

NEW SERIES, VOL. XV, NO. 49

A PERSONAL LETTER TO THE READER.

You and I know that the worth and fruitfulness of a Christian life depends first of all upon fellowship with God, and next upon fellowship with one another. The making of a full ear of corn depends first upon the grain being planted in the soil and being kept properly related to it. But scarcely less important than this is the necessity of being in the field when other grains of corn are planted, and growing up in company with them. Every farmer knows that a cornstalk growing alone will not make a full ear of corn. Every child that studies botany or agriculture in school knows the reason why. There must be the fertilization that comes from the pollen of other stalks of corn. The dust or pollen from the neighboring stalk falls upon its silk and so it becomes pollenized and fruitful. Without this it is impossible for the ear to be filled out with good grains. "Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred", as Paul says, to the Christian and his fellow Christians, to the local church and the other churches. It is impossible for a Christian to live by himself without fellowship with others, or a church to continue without co-operation with other churches and really produce the fruits of a Christian life. There must be communion in order to development, co-operation in order to growth and real service. The cornstalk may grow to its full height by itself; it may have the silk, the tassel, the blade, the shuck and the cob, but not the corn. The only way the corn can be produced profitably is by the pollen from other stalks. A Christian or a church may make a fair show in the flesh, may keep up an appearance of life, but there cannot be a genuinely fruitful life. There will be no full grain in the ear unless there is the intermingling of thought and experience, of faith and activity one with the other.

But How is This to be Brought About?

In the cornfield the bee and the breezes effect this intermingling. The pollen is carried from one stalk or one row to another and sterility is prevented. This office may be in some measure performed for the churches through more than one instrumentality, but the one above all others that spreads the fertilizing pollen of faith and truth, that stimulates activity and provokes to fruitful service is the religious newspaper. The Baptist Record is the breeze that rustles the waving fields into laughter, that makes one life reach out and embrace another in fraternal affection, that scatters the fruit-making pollen and gladdens the world with grain. Alas that some lives, some churches, some localities continue in sterile isolation! Reader, will you help us in the month of December to put the paper in these homes. Brother pastor, see that all your people take advantage of this opportunity now to get the paper for one dollar for the whole year. A friend offers to give the other dollar, up to one thousand. Remember to do this in December; do it now. It must be a bona fide new subscription and accompanied by the dollar.

P. J. Lipsy.

Editor.

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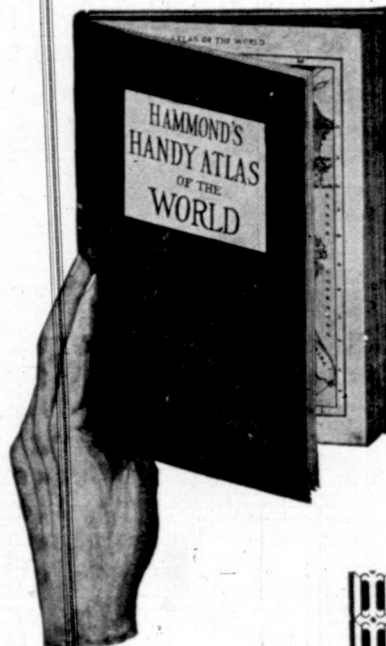
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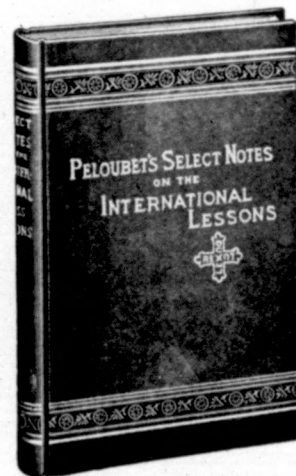
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